I CLAIM:

1. A secure, internet-based universal data repository system for medical product information, said system comprising:

a) a database containing medical product information comprising one or more of the following fields or combinations of fields:

i) specially defined and formatted product descriptions, including NDC numbers;

ii) safety codes;

iii) product scan codes;

iv) product recall information; and

v) product equivalency information

vi) optionally, company specific product information for specific technology products; and

b) a user access data auditor which provides a user data access audit trail;

c) a programmed system computer for processing and storing said medical product information;

d) an input device operatively interconnected to the programmed system computer means; and

e) an output device operatively interconnected to the programmed system computer means.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein said product scan codes include at least one medication identifier and information comprising at least one of the items selected from the group consisting of: NDC number, GTIN number and UPC Code.

3. The system of claim 1, where said user access data auditor strictly controls access to Internet-based data tables by user type and privilege, and wherein said auditor logs when a user views a recall message, thereby tracking whether the recall message has been viewed.

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4. The system of claim 1, comprising an updating and maintaining means for said medical product information via Internet communication by accessing a dedicated web site (URL) using web browsers.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein said input and output devices comprise a computer display screen having said medical product information displayed in fields.

6. The system of claim 1, further comprising scan codes for medications in said database.

7. The system of claim 1, further comprising a voice recognition unit for permitting said user to communicate with said system by verbal inputs.

8. The system of claim 1, wherein said input device cooperates with said voice recognition unit.

9. The system of claim 1, wherein said input means further comprises a pen interface for permitting a user to communicate with said system by writing on a screen with a pen.

10. The system of claim 1, wherein said information is received by at least one output device taken from the group consisting of voice, a keyboard, a pen and a mouse.

11. The system of claim 1, wherein said medical product is taken from the group consisting of manufactured generic, brand, over-the-counter, biologicals, blood products, medical devices, and intravenous solutions.

12. A method for creating and using product data, said method comprising the steps of:

a. accessing product scan code information for manufactured products;

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b. creating at least one product identification and description database;

c. updating product specific data in real time; and

d. disseminating product information and recall information in real time or on a designated schedule via the Internet to institutionally-based local data repositories

5 that support and use medication safety systems at healthcare institutions.

13. The method of claim 12, comprising retrieving product information across a network or the Internet from a remote source database and displaying or otherwise using retrieved product information in real time.

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14. A method of creating and using product recall information, said method comprising the steps of:

a. accessing product recall information for manufactured products;

b. creating at least one product recall database;

15 c. updating product recall data in real time; and

e. disseminating product recall information in real time or on a designated schedule via the Internet to institutionally-based local data repositories that support and use medication safety systems at healthcare institutions.

20 15. The method of claim 14, wherein said at least one product recall database additionally stores previously known product recall data associated with the product.

16. The method of claim 14, further comprising means for receiving and storing messages relating to product recalls, said messages being automatically

25 displayed to a user upon the identification of said user.

17. The method of claim 14, further comprising means for receiving and storing messages relating to product recalls, said messages consisting of data comprising at least one of the items selected from the following: identification of the

30 product, lot numbers recalled, reason(s) for recall, and severity of recall.

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18. The system of claim 1, further comprising means operable to use said medical product database and patient specific information to calculate a dosage recommendation, including an amount and a frequency of administration of said medical product.

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